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UM Mortar Board chapter wins excellence award

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NEWS RELEASE

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UM MORTAR BOARD CHAPTER WINS EXCELLENCE AWARD

MISSOULA--

Great teamwork paid off for a group of University of Montana graduates who, during their senior year, formed the 1998-99 Mortar Board chapter.

The group was presented a Chapter of Excellence Award by their parent organization, Mortar Board, a national college senior honor society. The excellence award recognizes chapters that uphold Mortar Board's ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. UM's chapter is among 40 out of 200 chapters to receive the award.

"It's a real honor that we got this and we're very excited," said Jorrund Liston, Mortar Board adviser. "Last year's group was a cohesive bunch and everyone was very excited and energized about what they were doing. Everybody just really did their job and clicked."

Mortar Board consists of 40 students who are selected by the previous year's members based on their academic, leadership and service histories. The chapter's new members recently kicked off the 1999-2000 academic year with their first meeting.

"It's really neat to watch this group of people, who don't really know each other but have similar backgrounds, come together," Liston said. "What they can accomplish in a year is amazing."

UM's Mortar Board society participates in service projects, including a national focus

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project whose theme changes each year. Members also organize the Last Lecture Series, in which professors are invited to present a lecture as if it were their last ever, the Professor of Month awards and Senior Recognition Awards.

“It’s another group on campus saying, ‘Hey, we appreciate what you’re doing,’” Liston said. “I don’t think people can hear that enough.”

The award was presented at Mortar Board’s national conference, held in Columbus, Ohio, in July.

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